

EPI Update for Friday, September 7, 2012
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Iowa influenza surveillance**
- **Influenza vaccine**
- **Cold-flu-pertussis**
- **Hantavirus**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Iowa influenza surveillance

With the 2012-2013 influenza season fast approaching, IDPH would like to encourage health care providers to join Iowa's flu surveillance efforts as an influenza sentinel surveillance site. IDPH extends a special thanks to those sites that have contributed to the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network in years past. To learn about the surveillance program or to become a sentinel site, please contact Yumei Sun at (515) 281-7134 or yumei.sun@idph.iowa.gov.

Influenza vaccine

Influenza outbreaks in Iowa can begin as early as October, with peak activity usually in late January or February. CDC recommends everyone over the age of 6 months get a flu vaccine. They can be given as soon as the 2012-13 seasonal flu vaccine is available.

Some children between 6 months and 8 years of age will need two doses. To see the one/two dose decision algorithm, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Flu and click on "2012-2013 Influenza Dosing Algorithm." If a detailed vaccine history is available, assess whether the child has ever had two doses of a seasonal flu vaccine AND at least one dose of H1N1-containing flu vaccine (i.e., 2009 monovalent [H1N1] or any seasonal flu vaccine since July 1, 2010); if the answer is yes to these criteria, the child needs only one dose of the 2012-13 seasonal flu vaccine.

Cold-flu-pertussis

Cold and flu season is approaching and high numbers of pertussis (whooping cough) continue to occur in Iowa. For a chart comparing pertussis symptoms to those of the common cold and influenza, see www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu_colds_pertussis.pdf.

Hantavirus

Recently, cases of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) have occurred among visitors to the "Signature Tent Cabins" in Curry Village inside Yosemite National Park from mid-June through August. The incubation period is one to five weeks, so more cases may occur. Early symptoms of HPS are non-specific and include fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, diarrhea, and vomiting. Late symptoms appear four to ten days after initial onset and include coughing, shortness of breath, and difficulty

breathing. HPS is fatal in 38 percent of cases. There is no specific treatment for HPS, but early detection and supportive care can reduce the mortality rate.

Since 1997, there have been eight confirmed cases of HPS in Iowa. The virus is spread via rodents who shed it in their urine, droppings, and saliva. Humans are usually infected when they breathe in droplets containing the virus, mainly in homes and barns where dust is created when sweeping or doing other dusty activities. To reduce risk of exposure, see www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Hantavirus. For information on preventing rodent infestations, see www.cdc.gov/rodents/prevent_infestations/index.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy, and cooler week!

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